results from the use of colchicum in these diseases.—*Proceedings of Med. Chirurg. Soc. Edinburgh*, in *Monthly Journ. Med. Sci.*, Aug. 1846.

13. *Nature of the Fæcal Evacuations in Cholera.* By M. ANDRAL.—Among the alterations found in the solids and fluids of the body in patients affected with cholera, there is one which belongs especially to this disease, and which is characteristic of it: namely, the existence within the intestinal canal of a peculiar white fluid, very similar to water in which rice has been boiled. This material, which is sometimes found in large quantities in the intestines of persons who have died of cholera, and which constitutes the alvine evacuations during life, consists of a muddy liquid, capable of being rendered transparent by filtration, and within which are suspended, in greater or less abundance, lumps of opaque white matter, perfectly untinged by bile. Concerning the nature of this peculiar fluid, it has been considered to consist of the serum and fibrine of blood escaped from its vessels, and poured into the intestinal canal. The liquid portion of this material has been regarded as the serum of the blood; the solid grumous portion, as the fibrine. According to this view an explanation is afforded of the peculiar characters presented by the blood in cholera. And it is considered by many, that the blood, thus deprived of much of its serum, and of its globules, can no longer traverse with readiness the different capillary net-works of the body, and that thus many of the peculiar symptoms presented by this disease may be explained. The facts, however, on which such an opinion was founded, not having been sufficiently proved, M. Andral was induced, by the occurrence of several cases of cholera, in the hospitals of Paris, in 1846, to submit to careful examination the matters passed from the intestines. After having filtered this intestinal matter, and thus separated it into two portions, the one, liquid, perfectly transparent and colourless; the other, solid, consisting of a number of particles agglomerated together, he treated the liquid portion with alcohol, nitric acid, and heat; but by none of these reagents was a precipitate formed; consequently there was no albumen. The results of an examination of this liquid portion by M. Favre also showed that the organic substance contained in it, possessed none of the characters of albumen. This proves, therefore, that the serum of the blood does not enter into the composition of the materials ejected from the intestines in cholera. Like the serum, indeed, this fluid was highly alkaline; but this is a character common also to many other fluids of the economy. The contents of the intestines also are usually alkaline, and the alkalinity is not more marked in cholera than in many other diseases.

Moreover, if the intestinal secretion in cholera is essentially composed of albumen, the quantity of this material in the blood ought to be found considerably diminished, as it is in certain affections of the kidney attended with the transmission of albumen through these organs. The diminution, indeed, in cholera ought to be much greater than in such renal affections, because the quantity of secretion poured from the intestines is very large. But M. Andral, having examined the blood in all stages of cholera, finds that the proportion of albumen is almost unaltered, neither manifest increase nor diminution being found. He has obtained equally decisive proof also of the non-existence of fibrine in the intestinal secretions in this disease. No trace of a filamentous texture could be detected by the microscope in the solid masses evacuated. These solid masses he finds to be composed of numerous nucleated and nucleolated cells, closely resembling pus-globules. Besides these globules, which were very abundant, the masses contained also numerous particles of epithelium. It would appear, therefore, from the results of his examinations, that the white matter discharged from the intestines, in cholera, consists essentially of a mucous secretion in enormous quantity, and so far altered in quality as to contain an abundance of corpuscles in all respects similar to pus-globules, and to which the white appearance of the secretion is due.—*Lond. Med. Gaz.*, Oct. 1847, from *Comptes Rendus*, 9th Aug., 1847.

[Dr. J. Hughes Bennett very justly remarks, in commenting on these investigations of M. Andral—"We doubt very much the propriety of attaching the idea of fibrine only to that condition of the liquor sanguinis when it coagulates into filaments. This, in the adult, takes place, for the most part, only on serous, and is exceedingly rare on mucous membranes. In the latter situation, it is rapidly transformed into pus, and should the observation of M. Andral be confirmed, we must accept it as an evidence of intense inflammation of the intestines in these cases.—*Month. Journ. Med. Sci.*, Dec., 1847.]

---

14. *Analysis of the Blood of Five Patients affected with Scurvy.* (*Archives Générales*, July, 1847.)—MM. Becquerel and Rodier, in a note presented to the Academy of Sciences, on the 21st of June last, give the following analysis of the blood of five patients, labouring under Scorbutus, under the care of M. Fauvel, at la Salpêtrière.

Case I.—Female, aged 76. Severe case; first bleeding, the clot much buffed; second bleeding, fifteen days later, clot dense, resisting, dark-red, and spotted white striæ. Density when defibrinized, 1050.6. Density of serum, 1025.5.

Analysis of 1000 parts of Blood.	
Globules	109.
Fibrin	4.1
Organic matters of serum	69.2
Inorganic matters of serum	6.8
Water	810.9
	1000.

Analysis of 1000 parts of Serum.	
Organic matters	77.7
Inorganic matters	7.8
Water	914.5
	1000.

Case II.—Female, aged 74. Severe case; blood firmly coagulated. Density of defibrinized blood, 1048.6.

Analysis of 1000 parts of Blood.	
Globules	110.8
Fibrin	3.6
Organic matters of serum	65.7
Inorganic matters of serum	6.2
Water	813.7
	1000.

Analysis of 1000 parts of Serum.	
Organic matters	73.8
Inorganic matters	7.
Water	919.2
	1000.

Case III.—Female, aged 73. Slight case; clot dark and loose. Density of defibrinized blood, 1051.7. Density of serum, 1025.2

Analysis of 1000 parts of Blood.	
Globules	116.5
Fibrin	3.
Organic matters of serum	67.3
Inorganic matters of serum	5.5
Water	807.7
	1000.

Analysis of 1000 parts of Serum.	
Organic matters	76.2
Inorganic matters	6.2
Water	916.6
	1000.

Case IV.—Female, 69; mild. Density of defibrinized blood, 1047.2. Density of serum, 1023.8.

Analysis of 1000 parts of Blood.	
Globules	116.
Fibrin	2.6
Organic matters of serum	63.1
Inorganic matters of serum	7.3
Water	811.
	1000.

Analysis of 1000 parts of Serum.	
Organic matters	71.3
Inorganic matters	8.2
Water	920.5
	1000.

Case V.—Female, 72 years. Severe case; epistaxis. Density of defibrinized blood, 1038.3. Density of serum, 1020.8.